

REMARKS

Claims 1-3, 5-10, and 12-15 are all the claims pending in the application.

Applicants note with appreciation the withdrawal of the §112 rejection of Claim 11 and the §112 rejection of Claims 1-14.

I. REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 103

Referring to Section No. 6 at pages 3-7 of the Office Action, Claims 1-3, 5-8, 10, and 15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 4,460,529 (“Schultze”) in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,273,699 (“Knudsen”) and the admitted state of the prior art.

Applicants respectfully traverse. The claimed method is not rendered obvious by the combination of Schultze in view of Knudsen and the admitted state of the prior art.

As acknowledged by the examiner at the paragraph bridging pages 4 and 5 of the Office Action, Schultze is deficient with respect to (1) the use of the oxide precursor, (2) spraying with a torch, (3) the specific formation of the powder and the materials used, and (4) using the substrate as a support for electronic components.

The examiner asserts that Knudsen and the admitted state of the prior art cure the deficiencies of Schultze.

For example, the examiner asserts that it would have been obvious to modify Schultze in view of Knudsen to use the formed aluminum nitride article as a support for electronic components, as suggested by the admitted state of the prior art, in order to provide desirable electronic components, because Schultze in view of Knudsen provides a thin aluminum nitride article, and the admitted state of the prior art teaches the use of formed aluminum nitride articles as supports for electronic components.

Applicants respectfully disagree.

The AlN grains of Knudsen, even if they are coated with an yttrium oxide precursor, are not suitable for use in a support for electronic components. In support, Applicants direct the examiner's attention to Section (i) at pages 2 and 3 of the Declaration Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.132 submitted herewith.

For at least the foregoing reason, Applicants request the withdrawal of the §103 rejection of Claims 1-3, 5-8, 10, and 15.

The examiner also asserts that Knudsen teaches atomizing the suspension in an inert atmosphere to obtain the treated powder.

Applicants respectfully disagree.

Knudsen's slurry of AlN powder mixed with an yttrium-containing compound, prior to dispersal in an aqueous medium, cannot be atomized. In support, Applicants direct the examiner's attention to Section (ii) at pages 3 and 4 of the Declaration Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.132 submitted herewith.

For each of the foregoing reasons, Applicants request the withdrawal of the §103 rejection of Claims 1-3, 5-8, 10, and 15.

II. REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 103

Referring to Section No. 7 at page 7 of the Office Action, Claim 9 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Schultze in view of Knudsen and the admitted state of the prior art and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,045,365 ("Okano").

Applicants respectfully traverse.

Claim 9 depends from Claim 1.

For at least the reasons stated at Section No. I above, Schultze in view of Knudsen and the admitted state of the prior art does not disclose or suggest each and every element of the method of Claim 1.

Okano does not cure the identified deficiencies of Schultze in view of Knudsen and the admitted state of the prior art.

For the foregoing reason, Applicants request the reconsideration and withdrawal of the §103 rejection of Claim 9.

III. REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 103

Referring to Section No. 8 at pages 8 and 9 of the Office Action, Claims 12-14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Schultze in view of Knudsen and the admitted state of the prior art and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 3,617,358 ("Dittrich").

Applicants respectfully traverse.

Each of Claims 12-14 depends from Claim 1.

For at least the reasons stated at Section No. I above, Schultze in view of Knudsen and the admitted state of the prior art does not disclose or suggest each and every element of the method of Claim 1.

Dittrich does not cure the identified deficiencies of Schultze in view of Knudsen and the admitted state of the prior art.

For the foregoing reason, Applicants request the reconsideration and withdrawal of the §103 rejection of Claims 12-14.

IV. REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 103

Referring to Section No. 9 at pages 9-12 of the Office Action, Claims 1-3, 5-8, 10, and 15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,276,423 ("Breit") in view of Knudsen.

Applicants respectfully traverse. The claimed method is not rendered obvious by the combination of Breit in view of Knudsen.

For example, the examiner asserts that Breit teaches a method of fabricating a substrate that can be an aluminum nitride substrate for use as a support for electronic components.

However, the AlN grains of Knudsen, even if they are coated with an yttrium oxide precursor, are not suitable for use in a support for electronic components. In support, Applicants direct the examiner's attention to Section (i) at pages 2 and 3 of the Declaration Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.132 submitted herewith.

For at least the foregoing reason, Applicants request the withdrawal of the §103 rejection of Claims 1-3, 5-8, 10, and 15.

In addition, as acknowledged by the examiner at the last full paragraph on page 10 of the Office Action, Breit is deficient with respect to (1) the use of the oxide precursor, (2) spraying with a torch, and (3) the specific formation of the powder and the materials used.

The examiner asserts that Knudsen cures the deficiencies of Breit.

For example, the examiner asserts that Knudsen teaches atomizing the suspension in an inert atmosphere to obtain the treated powder.

Applicants respectfully disagree.

Knudsen's slurry of AlN powder mixed with an yttrium-containing compound, prior to dispersal in an aqueous medium, cannot be atomized. In support, Applicants direct the examiner's attention to Section (ii) at pages 3 and 4 of the Declaration Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.132 submitted herewith.

For each of the foregoing reasons, Applicants request the withdrawal of the §103 rejection of Claims 1-3, 5-8, 10, and 15.

V. REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 103

Referring to Section No. 10 at pages 12-13 of the Office Action, Claim 9 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Breit in view of Knudsen and further in view of Okano.

Applicants respectfully traverse.

Claim 9 depends from Claim 1.

For at least the reasons stated at Section No. IV above, Breit in view of Knudsen does not disclose or suggest each and every element of the method of Claim 1.

Okano does not cure the identified deficiencies of Breit in view of Knudsen.

For the foregoing reason, Applicants request the reconsideration and withdrawal of the §103 rejection of Claim 9.

VI. REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 103

Referring to Section No. 11 at pages 13-14 of the Office Action, Claims 12-14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Breit in view of Knudsen and further in view of Dittrich.

Applicants respectfully traverse.

Each of Claims 12-14 depends from Claim 1.

For at least the reasons stated at Section No. IV above, Breit in view of Knudsen does not disclose or suggest each and every element of the method of Claim 1.

Dittrich does not cure the identified deficiencies of Breit in view of Knudsen.

For the foregoing reason, Applicants request the reconsideration and withdrawal of the §103 rejection of Claims 12-14.

VII. CONCLUSION

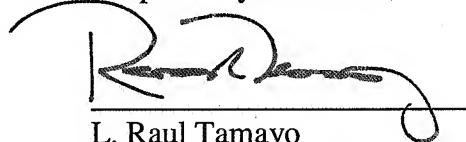
Reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

RESPONSE UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.111
U.S. Appln. No. 10/661,476

Docket No. Q77425

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'L. Raul Tamayo', written over a horizontal line.

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